

Meeting Minutes

Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission

Monday May 18, 2015 - 9:00 am

Two Hundred and Ninety-Fourth Meeting

In Attendance: Vice-President Jack Roberts, Acting Chairman; Mr. Scotty Parsons; Mr. Danny Shipley; Mr. Sanford Holbrook; Mr. Marc Hult; and Mr. Ray Adams.

Others Present: Deputy Commissioner Sandy Gruzesky, DNR; State Conservationist Karen Woodrich, NRCS; and Mr. Randy Smallwood, NRCS.

Also in attendance were Division of Conservation employees: Director Kim Richardson; Assistant Director Johnna McHugh; and Mr. Jeffrey Reed.

Quorum was met.

Meeting Called to Order - at 9:06 a.m. by Acting Chairman Jack Roberts.

SWCC Minutes From Last Meeting - March 16, 2015 - Motion to approve minutes was made by Mr. Sanford Holbrook. Motion seconded by Mr. Ray Adams. **Motion carried.**

Equipment Report - Assistant Director Johnna McHugh, DOC, presented the report with copies given.

Statement of Operations - Ms. McHugh reminded the board that the figure listed on the report for the ending balance of the amortization account still includes the \$1.125 million which the General Assembly will be taking at the end of the fiscal year (June 30th, 2015). Motion to accept the Statement of Operation report as presented was made by Mr. Scotty Parsons. Motion seconded by Mr. Ray Adams. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Equipment Loan Requests - The Garrard County Conservation District is requesting a loan for \$12,532.00, to be used for a Haybuster 7 ft. No-Till Drill. Mr. Sanford Holbrook made the motion to approve this loan. Mr. Ray Adams seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Infrastructure Loan Requests - The Trimble County Conservation District is requesting a loan for \$25,000.00, to be used for a two (2) BR/one (1) BA house/office/conference center located on the town square at 511 West Street (the building this district previously rented for office space). Mr. Scotty Parsons made the motion to approve the loan. Mr. Marc Hult seconded the motion. Before a final vote was taken Mr. Sanford Holbrook questioned the feasibility of approving this loan due to this district's recent troubles regarding budgeting. Ms. McHugh answered his concerns by stating the following: 1) The local judge executive has assured this district that he will make every effort to keep their funding that is issued from the fiscal court, at its current level of eleven thousand dollars (\$11,000) per year. 2) The equal loan payments of two hundred and forty-nine dollars and sixty-five cents (\$249.65) are actually less than what this district was previously paying in rent. Ms. McHugh pointed out that she was formerly Trimble County's field rep and at that time they were paying four hundred dollars (\$400) in rent for the same building. 3) The district now has a new secretary in place that actually does budget, which alleviates the previous problems in this area. Director Kim Richardson, DOC, asked Ms. McHugh if the Trimble County district was aware of the initial expenses which will be incurred when going through the Real Properties process. Ms. McHugh stated she believed they were because she has spoken with them about this. She added that Real Property Resources will not get involved regarding this matter until after the loan has been approved by the board. Mr. Ray Adams questioned if the building already met the

requirements for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to which Ms. McHugh replied she was not sure. The motion was placed for a vote. **Motion carried.**

Vacancy Petitions for Conservation District Supervisor's Appointments - Director Kim Richardson, DOC, presented the report with copies given.

Powell County - Ms. Gail Ann Smith to serve the unexpired term of Mr. Chris Hall (2018)

Green County - Mr. Edward Price to serve the unexpired term of Mr. Michael Price (2018)

Additions:

Edmonson County - Mr. Danny Stewart to serve the unexpired term of Mr. George Mapes

Kenton County - Mr. Scott Daniels to serve the unexpired term of Ms. Heather Mayfield.

Motion to accept the vacancy petitions was made by Mr. Scotty Parsons. Motion was seconded by Mr. Sanford Holbrook.
Motion carried.

Incentive Pay for Supervisors

Fleming County

Bobby Campbell - KACD Convention; Supervisor's ten-minute trainings

Gene Jarvis - KACD Convention; Supervisor's ten-minute trainings

Hancock County

Joseph M. Hagman - KACD Area 3 Spring Supervisor's Meeting; ten (10) ten minute trainings

Dennis R. Johnson - KACD Area 3 Spring Supervisor's Meeting; eight (8) ten minute trainings

Stephen R. Ogle - KACD Area 3 Spring Supervisor's Meeting; ten (10) ten minute trainings

Anthony L. Johnson - KACD Area 3 Spring Supervisor's Meeting; eight (8) ten minute trainings

Lloyd P. Ray - KACD Area 3 Spring Supervisor's Meeting; ten (10) ten minute trainings

Gary A. Long - KACD Area 3 Spring Supervisor's Meeting; ten (10) ten minute trainings

Warren County

Garnett Owens - KACD Convention; eight (8) ten minute trainings

LaJuana Wilcher - KACD Convention; eight (8) ten minute trainings

Darrell Cohron - KACD Convention; eight (8) ten minute trainings

Donald Elkin - KACD Convention; eight (8) ten minute trainings

Campbell County

Pete Garrett - BCK Supervisor's Training; Area 5 Spring Meeting

C. Kenneth McCormick - KACD Convention; ten (10) ten minute trainings; Area 5 Spring Meeting; OKI-RCC Meeting

Ronald McCormick - KACD Convention; ten (10) ten minute trainings; Area 5 Spring Meeting; OKI-RCC Meeting

Linda Bray-Schafer - Area 5 Spring Meeting; ten (10) ten minute trainings

Rick Simon - KACD Convention; ten (10) ten minute trainings; BCK Supervisor Training; Area 5 Spring Meeting

Gretchen Vaughn - BCK Supervisor Training; ten (10) ten minute trainings

Morgan County

Jerry Haney - Area 8 Spring Meeting; eight (8) ten minute trainings

Rowan County

Sam Hughes - Area 8 Spring Meeting; eight (8) out of twelve (12) training sessions

Clyde Mays, Jr. - Area 8 Spring Meeting; eight (8) out of twelve (12) training sessions

Yvonne Thompson - Area 8 Spring Meeting; eight (8) out of twelve (12) training sessions
Dennis Perry - Area 8 Spring Meeting; eight (8) out of twelve (12) training sessions
David Murphy - Area 8 Spring Meeting; eight (8) out of twelve (12) training sessions
Willie Pennington - Area 8 Spring Meeting; eight (8) out of twelve (12) training sessions
Gary Ferguson - Area 8 Spring Meeting; eight (8) out of twelve (12) training sessions

Webster County

Sharon Edwards - KACD Meeting; Area 2 Supervisor's Meeting; nine (9) regular meetings
Roger Blackburn - KACD Meeting; Area 2 Supervisor's Meeting; nine (9) regular meetings
P. E. Chandler- KACD Meeting; Area 2 Supervisor's Meeting; nine (9) regular meetings
Larry Ranes - KACD Meeting; Area 2 Supervisor's Meeting; nine (9) regular meetings
Ken Hammock - KACD Meeting; Area 2 Supervisor's Meeting; nine (9) regular meetings

Leslie County

Frank Baker - KACD Convention; eight (8) out of twelve (12) ten minute trainings; three (3) 20 area meetings
James Davidson - KACD Convention; eight (8) out of twelve (12) ten minute trainings; three (3) 20 area meetings
Vicki Garrison - KACD Convention; ten (10) out of twelve (12) ten minute trainings; three (3) 20 area meetings
Ronnie Gay - KACD Convention; ten (10) out of twelve (12) ten minute trainings; three (3) 20 area meetings
Jackie Howard - KACD Convention; eight (8) out of twelve (12) ten minute trainings; three (3) 20 area meetings
Angela Muncy - KACD Convention; eight (8) out of twelve (12) ten minute trainings; three (3) 20 area meetings
Tommy Roberts - KACD Convention; ten (10) out of twelve (12) ten minute trainings; three (3) 20 area meetings

Laurel County

Lonnie Bowling - eight (8) Supervisor's Meetings; Area 7 Spring Meeting
Bill Bowling - ten (10) Supervisor's Meetings; Area 7 Spring Meeting
Clemons Bundy - eight (8) Supervisor's Meetings; Area 7 Spring Meeting
Bernice Chestnut - nine (9) Supervisor's Meetings; Area 7 Spring Meeting
John Day - ten (10) Supervisor's Meetings; Area 7 Spring Meeting
Kenneth Massey - eight (8) Supervisor's Meetings; Area 7 Spring Meeting
Jerry McDaniel - ten (10) Supervisor's Meetings; Area 7 Spring Meeting

Mason County

Anthony Wenz - eight (8) out of twelve (12) ten minute trainings; Area 5 Meeting
Janice Barenett - eight (8) out of twelve (12) ten minute trainings; Area 5 Meeting
Jane Poe - eight (8) out of twelve (12) ten minute trainings; Area 5 Meeting; State Convention
James VanHook - eight (8) out of twelve (12) ten minute trainings; Area 5 Meeting
Eric Cooper - eight (8) out of twelve (12) ten minute trainings; Area 5 Meeting

Floyd County

Lenville Martin - KACD Convention; Area 8 Meeting; eight (8) out of ten (10) ten minute trainings
Floyd Allen - KACD Convention; Area 8 Meeting; eight (8) out of ten (10) ten minute trainings
Thomas Hardwick - KACD Convention; Area 8 Meeting; eight (8) out of ten (10) ten minute trainings
Ernie Tackett - KACD Convention; Area 8 Meeting; eight (8) out of ten (10) ten minute trainings
Bert Layne - KACD Convention; Area 8 Meeting; eight (8) out of ten (10) ten minute trainings
Jim Carter - KACD Convention; Area 8 Meeting; eight (8) out of ten (10) ten minute trainings
Clyde Doug DeRossett - KACD Convention; Area 8 Meeting; eight (8) out of ten (10) ten minute trainings

Bracken County

Eddie Hopkins - ten (10) of twelve (12) ten minute trainings; KACD Convention
John M. Goecke - nine (9) of twelve (12) ten minute trainings; special RC & D Meeting (re: Licking River Valley)

Ohio County

Cletus Greer - ten (10) ten minute trainings; Area Meeting
Garry Igleheart - ten (10) ten minute trainings; Area Meeting
Jason Anderson - ten (10) ten minute trainings; Area Meeting
Mike Newman - ten (10) ten minute trainings; Area Meeting

Breckenridge County

Pat Henderson - KACD Convention; eleven (11) ten minute trainings
Steven Hinton - Area 3 Meeting in Hardinsburg; eleven (11) ten minute trainings
Lee Burks - Area 3 Meeting in Hardinsburg; eleven (11) ten minute trainings
Kenny Hinton - Area 3 Meeting in Hardinsburg; ten (10) ten minute trainings

Harlan County

Harold K. Jones - Regional Horticulture Field Day; ten (10) ten minute trainings
Lonnie T. Saylor - Regional Horticulture Field Day; ten (10) ten minute trainings
Murphy Green - Soil Health Field Day in Berea; ten (10) ten minute trainings

Grant County

Bill Courts - Area 5 Meeting; eight (8) or more field reps trainings
Tim Epperson - KACD Convention; eight (8) or more field reps trainings
Ronnie Gabbert - Area 5 Meeting; eight (8) or more field reps trainings
Jerry Martin - Area 5 Meeting; eight (8) or more field reps trainings
Kenwood Soper - KACD Convention; Area 5 Meeting; eight (8) or more field reps trainings

Mr. Sanford Holbrook requested clarification on some of the trainings. His first question was what do the letters "BCK" stand for (listed for Campbell County). Ms. Richardson informed him this was short for "Boone, Campbell, and Kenton." She added that this is a training presented by a DOC field rep and has been approved in the past. The second was what is the "special RC & D meeting" listed under Bracken County. Ms. Richardson stated she had not yet received an agenda for this and therefore is unaware of what this meeting entailed. Mr. Holbrook continued by asking about the "Regional Horticulture Field Day" listed for Harlan County. Ms. Richardson stated that she has not received an agenda for this event either. She did inform Harlan County however that to be eligible for incentive per diem then the event should provide a leadership building opportunity, and she felt this meeting would not fulfill this requirement. Lastly, also listed for Harlan County, Mr. Holbrook questioned the "Soil Health Field Day in Berea." Ms. Richardson stated that she did receive an agenda for this event but as she just stated, due to the absence of any leadership equipping exercises, she felt this event also did not meet the intended purpose for incentive per diem. Motion to approve incentive pay for supervisors per diem, *excluding* any requests for: 1) the special RC & D meeting, 2) the Regional Horticulture Field Day, and 3) the Soil Health Field Day (*the denial for per diem of the three events would affect three persons in Harlan County and one person in Bracken County*), was made by Mr. Sanford Holbrook. Motion seconded by Mr. Ray Adams. **Motion carried.**

Agriculture District Program - Assistant Director Johnna McHugh, DOC, presented the report with copies given. Seven (7) new petitions are presented to the Commission for consideration totaling 1,843.55 acres.

Bracken County - Petition No. 012-05 (A3) - 264.98 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Danny Shipley. Motion seconded by Mr. Marc Hult. **Motion carried.**

Henry County - Petition 052-01 (A10) - 100 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Ray Adams. Motion seconded by Mr. Danny Shipley. **Motion carried.**

Jefferson County - Petition 056-02 (A1) - 80 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Ray Adams. Motion seconded by Sanford Holbrook. **Motion carried.**

Jefferson County - Petition 056-03 (A1) - 10.20 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Ray Adams. Motion seconded by Mr. Sanford Holbrook. **Motion carried.**

Nelson County - Petition 090-10 (A1) - 978.97 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Ray Adams. Motion seconded by Mr. Danny Shipley. **Motion carried.**

Nelson County - Petition 090-13 - 352 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Ray Adams. Motion seconded by Mr. Sanford Holbrook. **Motion carried.**

Taylor County - Petition 109-07(A1) - 57.40 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Scotty Parsons. Motion seconded by Mr. Sanford Holbrook. **Motion carried.**

Six (6) Agricultural Districts have been submitted to the Commission for five-year recertification for a total of 7,442.46 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Scotty Parsons and seconded by Mr. Sanford Holbrook. **Motion carried.**

Director Kim Richardson, DOC, reported to the Commission a topic that may come up at the convention, concerning Campbell County's recent request for an interpretation from the Attorney General regarding a section of the Ag District law. The wording in question is as follows, "*An Ag District shall be established for five (5) years with a review to be made by the local soil and water conservation district board of supervisors at the end of the five (5) year period and every five (5) years thereafter. Each owner of the land shall agree to remain in the district for a five (5) year period which is renewable at the end of the five (5) years.*" This clarification has been brought about by a land owner in the Campbell County district who wishes to know if they will be penalized for an early withdrawal from the program. Ms. Richardson stated she has been in communication with the Attorney General's Office and now is waiting for the written comment to be handed down. Acting Chairman Jack Roberts questioned how many acres are required to be deemed an Ag District to which Ms. Richardson replied two hundred and fifty (250). Each land owner who participates in an Ag District is required to have a minimum of ten (10) acres or eleven (11) if a house is located on the property.

Discussion of Spring Area Meetings - *The Area 4 Meeting*: Mr. Ray Adams presented the report. Mr. Adams stated that it was a good and well attended meeting with nothing outstanding to report. *The Area 5 Meeting*: Mr. Marc Hult presented the report. This meeting also had a good attendance which included the judge executive and the mayor. Various presentations were given. Ms. Kim Richardson, who also attended, stated that there was good discussion concerning the upcoming Attorney General's ruling on the Ag District question. It was decided that any resolution which might be proposed would be postponed until this ruling is handed down. There was no new discussion to report. *The Area 8 Meeting*: The report was presented by Mr. Sanford Holbrook. The meeting was held in Martin County and had a good turnout with all counties represented except one (1). The liaison for Congressman Hal Rogers' NE KY office was one of the attendees. Mr. Sanford stated there were good presentations given. No new resolutions or elections to report. *The Area 9 Meeting*: The report was given by Ms. Kim Richardson. The meeting was held at Buckhorn SRP and was hosted this year by Wolfe County. KACD elections were held and Mr. Orville Bennett was re-elected.

Division of Conservation Report

Direct Aid - Director Kim Richardson, DOC, began by stating that the amount of Direct Aid Funding for the upcoming fiscal year would be nine hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$950,000). The method/system for distribution of this money must be decided on at this meeting. Assistant Director Johnna McHugh, DOC, presented copies of two reports. The first lists the annual financial report (AFR) receipts by district office and the second sheet shows a proposal for Direct Aid scoring. Ms. McHugh explained in detail DOC's proposed system of ranking/scoring. Mr. Danny Shipley questioned the figures in the last column of the AFR's spreadsheet. This figure is the difference for the previous year should each district, this year, receive a straight seven thousand five hundred dollar (\$7,500) allotment across the board, as proposed for consideration by Mr. Sanford Holbrook at the last meeting. As discussed in previous board meetings the overall intention and goal of implementing the proposal would be to make the process more transparent and to insure that those districts that need the most assistance receive it. Ms. McHugh pointed out that by utilizing this proposed system for ranking the districts, a portion of the \$950,000 would be kept back as a cash reserve to use for those districts which run into financial hardship before the FY is through. When questioned concerning the cash amount of this nest egg Ms. McHugh replied as currently proposed, it would amount to one hundred and

twenty-six thousand dollars (\$126,000). After a brief discussion about the districts that collect millage tax Ms. McHugh succinctly pointed out that part of the equation in the commission's decision making process for Direct Aid Funding distribution is not necessarily how the districts receive their funding but *how they put to use the funding they are currently receiving* in assisting the land owners in their respective areas. She also reiterated that the point system being presented for consideration is based on a compilation of previous conversations in which various members of this board expressed what they felt was important in determining those districts with the greatest needs. She concluded by stating that at the board's discretion any item of this proposal could be removed or a new element added.

When questioned about the original purpose of Direct Aid Funding Ms. Richardson stated that the KY General Assembly used this money to assist the twelve (12) or thirteen (13) conservation districts which had been closed by USDA in the 1990's (i.e. the funding was used to re-open, and keep open, these offices). Mr. Ray Adams added that back in the 1970's this program was explained to him as a means of maintaining office personnel in the district offices.

Mr. Marc Hult stated that for many districts Direct Aid is a small portion of their overall budget so therefore what is being presented here today for consideration is a positive step in the right direction to assist those districts which need it most. Ms. Richardson stated that on average there are five (5) districts which do not apply for Direct Aid Funding.

Ms. Richardson reminded the board that the Districts In Good Standing (DIGS) Program was not very popular when it was first instituted either but three (3) years later it proved to be immeasurably valuable with the State Auditor's report on special districts. A new Governor will soon be in place and having a Direct Aid Funding "distribution plan" will be vital in justifying the continued funding of this program in the upcoming biennial budget.

Mr. Sanford Holbrook suggested changing the point system regarding number of employees for each district. Mr. Hult interjected that it would be necessary to base this on full time equivalence and not on number of people. Mr. Holbrook felt that whether a district has one (1) employee or chooses to have five (5) the points awarded should be the same, i.e. remove this item (no. of employees) from the equation. Mr. Hult stated that he believed the number of employees is a good and useful element to quantify if the board can figure a way to incorporate this into the formula.

Ms. Richardson stated that the new funds would come in July 1st. She continued that once the AFR's are completed and the data imputed, then DOC would be in position to get Direct Aid out to the districts. Mr. Scotty Parsons stated that on the basis of all the information presented he felt that Ms. McHugh has done a good job in creating the proposed point system, commenting especially on the portion of funds set aside for emergency purposes. Mr. Danny Shipley made the motion to approve the point system as presented. Mr. Scotty Parsons seconded the motion. Ms. McHugh asked the question, for clarification, "Approve the proposal as written?" Mr. Sanford Holbrook interjected that he would like to see the points given based on the "number of employee's" removed from the equation because, as he stated, employee hiring is a local decision determined by each district. Mr. Holbrook gave the example of Adair County which would be given four thousand dollars (\$4,000) because they have two (2) employees, to add to their \$193,792.34 budget on hand. Mr. Hult pointed out that sixty-seven percent (67%) of Kenton County's budget is used for their employees. He added that if the employee factor were removed from consideration then the funding distribution would essentially be based on only one (1) quantity, and for the stated reason of being more transparent he believes more criteria is beneficial. Assistant Commissioner Sandy Gruzesky, DNR, posed the question if points could be granted to those districts who work together to achieve their objectives. Mr. Holbrook, continuing the motion discussion, also wanted to have two (2) codes added to the "balance on hand" equation. He suggested that any district with less than twenty five thousand dollars (\$25,000) would be given a code of six (6), and if a district had less than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) they would be given a code of seven (7). After further discussion Mr. Holbrook moved to amend the motion on the floor to include the additional codes of six (6) and seven (7) to the balance on hand equation, as detailed above. Mr. Marc Hult seconded the motion as amended. A vote was taken on the amendment. **Motion carried.** A vote immediately followed on the motion as amended. **Motion as amended carried.** *Note for clarification:* The number of employees for each district *will remain* as a factor in calculating the Direct Aid Funding distribution. Ms. Richardson thanked the board for passing this measure. Acting Chairman Jack Roberts thanked Ms. Richardson and Ms. McHugh for all their effort in compiling and presenting the proposal.

Ms. Johnna McHugh distributed copies of the re-worked Direct Aid Funding spreadsheet with the amended motion change. Ms. McHugh noted that she added a new "payment code category" which now shows a two (2) through nine (9) ranking rather than the previous two (2) through eight (8). Ms. McHugh said that the new payment code (9) represents a payment of fourteen thousand dollars (\$14,000) to those districts with a balance of less than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000). This adjustment will mean a smaller amount available to be used as a cushion for the districts that require extra help before the end of the fiscal year. The new amount of the reserve will be seventy-two thousand dollars (\$72,000).

State Cost Share - Presentation given by Mr. Randy Smallwood, NRCS. State Conservationist Karen Woodrich, NRCS, prefaced Mr. Smallwood's presentation by reminding those in attendance that both she and Ms. Kim Richardson have been working with U.K., along with several other partners on the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). A portion of these discussions inevitably turned to the State Cost Share Program which in turn led to the topic of heavy use areas and the structures being put in these areas through means of State Cost Share funding. From these talks Mr. Smallwood and several others went on a tour to view these structures first hand and as a result of this he created an overhead presentation entitled, "State Cost Share Heavy Use Area's (HUA's) For Winter Feeding in KY". This showed the commission how the State Cost Share funding was being put to use. The "keys to success for heavy use areas" that Mr. Smallwood pointed out included: 1) limit beef numbers to twenty-five (25) cows or cow/calf pairs. 2) install multiple structures to keep animal numbers low at each HUA site 3) keep area sizing at the current level of 40'x40' 4) site HUA's where water and mineral can be fed 250+ feet away to prevent the cattle from staying at and around the HUA thus causing mud and compaction problems 5) site HUA's where they can serve multiple pastures and hay can be fed in alternative sites early in the winter and at other times when the ground is frozen 6) minimize animal manure buildup (the resource concern being alleviated is water quality). A problem Mr. Smallwood saw in presenting these practices to farmers was that they liked it so much, due to it fitting so well into the production side of their operations, that they were losing sight of the conservation side by requesting bigger HUA's. Mr. Smallwood noted that these practices are not to be approached as a one-size fits all. They were designed to work ideally with twenty (20) to twenty-five (25) cows. Mr. Smallwood stated that he along with Mr. Tony Burnett have been working with Director Kim Richardson, DOC, on practices such as this and what NRCS personnel can certify in the field. Some of the key topics of discussion included: 1) the need for education/re-education about KY Ag Water Quality Plans 2) possibilities of streamlining State Cost Share applications i.e. prescreening 3) changes with the application form: field visit determines practices needed in applicants plan 4) EQIP and State Cost Share should not be competing for funding 5) AWQP and/or Conservation Plan Priority 6) Complete Program Manual re-write.

KACD Convention - Ms. Kim Richardson reviewed the finalized KACD Convention schedule highlighting the Soil Health Forum to be held on Monday. Ms. Richardson also pointed out that this year, for cost saving purposes, the convention would end with a banquet/luncheon on Tuesday afternoon. She also noted that the Leopold Award presentation will be included in Tuesday afternoon's agenda. Ms. Richardson requested that the board consider what time would work best to meet while at the convention. The convention will take place July 19-21 at Bowling Green's University Plaza Holiday Inn.

AWQA Appointment - Two (2) names have been submitted for the board's consideration to represent the environmental groups as a member of the Agricultural Water Quality Authority. The first is Mr. Ron Brunty who is the Vice-Chairman of the Environmental Quality Commission. Mr. Brunty also serves as the Chairman of the Letcher County Conservation District and is a past member of the KACD Board of Directors. The other individual is Mr. Hank Graddy, who has been nominated by the Kentucky Resources Council. Mr. Graddy has previously served on the AWQA Board. Ms. Kim Richardson stated that she has not yet received Mr. Graddy's application which was due April 30th. Mr. Marc Hult made the motion to nominate Mr. Hank Graddy for the position. This motion died due to a lack of a second. Mr. Sanford Holbrook made the motion to nominate Mr. Ron Brunty. Mr. Ray Adams seconded the motion. Mr. Hult stated, before the vote, that he does not see where Mr. Brunty has any connection with environmental groups in Kentucky. Adding that this is something he would expect a nominee for this appointment to possess. **Motion carried** with a vote of five (5) in favor and one (1) opposed.

Agency Reports

Natural Resources Conservation Service - The report was presented by State Conservationist Karen Woodrich, NRCS. Ms. Woodrich reiterated what Mr. Randy Smallwood earlier reported that NRCS staff and KY DOC staff have been working diligently on the State Cost Share Program. Ms. Woodrich and Director Kim Richardson, DOC, along with several other partners, have

been working on the Resource Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). DOC was awarded the one (1) state funded project from the 2015 round of project proposals. The project focuses on livestock producers and helping them improve water quality resource concerns. Ms. Woodrich stated that there is approximately four million dollars available that is specifically earmarked for livestock practices to be installed. The target date for this will be sometime this summer. The next round for RCPP funding options has been announced. Due date for pre-proposals is July 8th. Nationally there are two hundred and fifty-five million dollars available, with the maximum amount for any one (1) project set at 10 million dollars. Anyone interested in more information may go to the NRCS website or grants.gov or speak directly with Ms. Woodrich.

An update on the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): Ms. Woodrich stated just under ten million dollars was received this year for the program with one hundred and fifteen thousand dollars (\$115,000) remaining to be issued. Ms. Woodrich has requested more funding.

The Conservation Stewardship Program has received three hundred and sixty-two applications this year. This far surpasses the previous highest number of forty (40). NRCS is making an effort to bring this program into Kentucky to reward farmers for exhibiting good conservation practices.

Kentucky Department for Natural Resources - Deputy Commissioner Sandy Gruzesky, DNR, presented the report. Ms. Gruzesky discussed **SB 186** which updates the regulations for the Division of Oil & Gas. The statute makes provision for funding to be used in the removal of abandoned, above-ground, storage tanks.

The Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) has a pilot project for water quality trading regarding nutrients. This allows nutrient dischargers to compensate farmers for installing nutrient reduction practices in their operations, i.e. water quality trading. This past April EPRI received a U.S. Water Prize from the U.S. Water Alliance for launching this project.

Kentucky Department of Agriculture - Mr. Steve Kelly was not in attendance.

Agriculture Education/FFA State Advisor - Mr. Brandon Davis was not in attendance.

Farm Service Agency - Mr. John McCauley, State Executive Director, was not in attendance.

University of Kentucky Research Experiment Station - Dr. Steve Higgins was not in attendance.

Division of Forestry - Ms. Leah MacSwords, Director, was not in attendance.

KACDE - Ms. Leslie Fourqurean was not in attendance.

Next Board Meeting - will be held during the KACD Convention in Bowling Green on Sunday, July 19th at 2:00 p.m. C.T. The remaining two (2) meetings for 2015 will take place on September 21st and November 16th (both meetings begin at 9:00 a.m.)

Other Business - Acting Chairman Jack Roberts expressed his gratitude for all the flowers and sympathy cards he received due to the recent passing of his wife.

Adjournment - Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Danny Shipley. Motion seconded by Mr. Scotty Parsons. **Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

